We claim:

1.   A method for sharing and manipulating supply chain planning data,

comprising the steps:

5   storing said planning data;

assigning attributes to said planning data;

creating a hierarchy based on said attributes; and

manipulating said supply chain planning data by aggregating said planning

data in accordance with said hierarchy to produce aggregated planning data.

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2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said step of assigning attributes is performed

by assigning a location attribute and a product attribute to each of said planning data.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein said step of assigning attributes further

15   comprises the step of assigning a user defined attribute to each of said planning data.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein said step of creating a hierarchy is performed

by ranking and placing one of said attributes into a hierarchical order.

20   5.   The method of claim 4, wherein said planning data is based on a first unit of

measure and said step of manipulating said planning data comprises the step of

converting one of said planning data based on a first unit of measure to a planning

data based on a second unit of measure.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of converting one of said planning data further comprises the step of creating a conversion chain comprising a factor.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of converting one of said planning data further includes the step of applying said factor to said one of said planning data based on a first unit of measure to a planning data based on a second unit of measure.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of manipulating said planning data comprises the step of allocating aggregate edits for a first hierarchical item belonging to a first tier to at least two second hierarchical items belonging to tiers lower than said first tier in said hierarchy.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of assigning a role to a user.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said role is associated with a filter.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of selecting one of said planning data by filtering said planning data using said filter.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said step for filtering said planning data using said filter is performed by querying for one of said planning data having attributes as defined by said filter.

13.   The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of creating a customized

calendar based on said user's time period preferences.

14.   The method of claim 13, wherein said step of manipulating said planning data

5   further comprises the step of organizing and incrementing said planning data

according to said customized calendar.

15.   The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of creating a freeze

profile.

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16.   The method of claim 15, wherein said freeze profile is defined by a freeze

period.

17.   The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of assigning said freeze

15   profile to one of said planning data preventing said planning data from being edited

during said freeze period.

18.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of electronically

transmitting said planning data to a computer device.

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19.   The method of claim 18, wherein said step of electronically transmitting said

planning data to a computer device is via an electronic network..

20.   The method of claim 19, wherein said electronic network is the Internet.

21.   The method of claim 1, wherein said step of manipulating said planning data comprises the step of converting one of said planning data based on a first unit of measure to a planning data based on a second unit of measure.

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22.   The method of claim 21, wherein said step of converting one of said planning data further comprises the step of creating a conversion chain comprising a factor.

23.   The method of claim 22, wherein said step of converting one of said planning

10   data further includes the step of applying said factor to said one of said planning data based on a first unit of measure to produce a planning data based on a second unit of measure.

24.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of manipulating said planning data

15   comprises the step of allocating aggregate edits for a first hierarchical item belonging to a first tier to at least two second hierarchical items belonging to tiers lower than said first tier in said hierarchy.

25.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning a role to a

20   user.

26.   The method of claim 25, wherein said role is associated with a filter.

27.   The method of claim 26, further comprises the step of selecting one of said

planning data by filtering said planning data using said filter.

28.   The method of claim 26, wherein said step for filtering said planning data

5   using said filter is performed by querying for one of said planning data having

attributes as defined by said filter.

29.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of creating a customized

calendar based on a user's time period preferences.

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30.   The method of claim 29, wherein said step of manipulating said planning data

further comprises the step of organizing and incrementing said planning data

according to said customized calendar.

15   31.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of creating a freeze profile.

32.   The method of claim 31, wherein said freeze profile is defined by a freeze

period.

20   33.   The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of assigning said freeze

profile to one of said planning data preventing said planning data from being edited

during said freeze period.

34.   A system for sharing and manipulating supply chain planning data,

comprising:

   means for storing said supply chain planning data;

   means for assigning attributes to said planning data;

5   means for creating a hierarchy based on said attributes; and

   means for manipulating said planning data by aggregating said planning data

in accordance with said hierarchy to produce aggregated planning data.

35.   The system of claim 34, wherein said assigning means is for assigning a

10   location attribute and a product attribute to each of said planning data.

36.   The system of claim 35, wherein said assigning means is for assigning a user

defined attribute to each of said planning data.

15   37.   The system of claim 34, wherein said hierarchy creating means creates a

hierarchy by ranking and placing one of said attributes into a hierarchical order.

38.   The system of claim 34, wherein said planning data is based on a first unit of

measure, said manipulating means comprises a means for converting one of said

20   planning data based on a first unit of measure to a planning data based on a second

unit of measure.

39.   The system of claim 38, wherein said converting means is for converting one of said planning data comprising a means for creating a conversion chain comprising a factor.

5   40.   The system of claim 39, wherein said converting means is for converting said planning data by applying said factor to said one of said planning data based on a first unit of measure to produce a planning data based on a second unit of measure.

41.   The system of claim 34, wherein said manipulating means further comprises
10   of means of allocating aggregate edits for a first hierarchical item belonging to a first tier to at least two second hierarchical items belonging to tiers lower than said first tier in said hierarchy.

42.   The system of claim 34, further comprising a means of assigning a role to a
15   user.

43.   The system of claim 42, wherein said role is associated with a filter.

44.   The system of claim 43, further comprises a means for selecting one of said
20   planning data by filtering said planning data using said filter.

45.   The system of claim 44, wherein said filtering means is a filter that queries for one of said planning data having attributes as defined by said filter.

46. The system of claim 34, further comprising a means for creating a customized calendar based on a user's time period preferences.

47. The system of claim 46, wherein said manipulating means comprising a means for organizing and incrementing said planning data according to said customized calendar.

48. The system of claim 34, further comprising a means of creating a freeze profile.

49. The system of claim 48, wherein said freeze profile is defined by a freeze period.

50. The system of claim 49, further comprising a means for assigning said freeze profile to one of said planning data preventing said planning data from being edited during said freeze period.

51. The system of claim 34, further comprising a means for electronically transmitting said planning data to a computer device.

52. The system of claim 51, wherein said transmitting means electronically transmits said planning data to a computer device via an electronic network.

53. The system of claim 52, wherein said electronic network is the Internet.

54.   A collaboration network for sharing supply chain information, comprising:

a database storing planning data;

an attribute module which assigns attributes to said planning data;

5   a hierarchy module which creates a hierarchy; and

a manipulation module which manipulates said planning data by aggregating said planning data in accordance with a hierarchy created by said hierarchy module to produce aggregated planning data.

10   55.   The network of claim 54, wherein said attribute, hierarchy and manipulation modules are located on a server.

56.   The network of claim 55, wherein said server is in communication with users via the Internet.

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57.   The network of claim 54, wherein said attribute module creates and assigns attributes to said planning data by assigning two attributes to each of said planning data.

20   58.   The network of claim 54, wherein said hierarchy module creates a hierarchy by ranking and placing one of said attributes into a hierarchical order.

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59.   The network of claim 54, wherein said planning data is based on a first unit of

measure, and said manipulation module converts one of said planning data based on a

first unit of measure to a planning data based on a second unit of measure.

5   60.   The network of claim 59, wherein said manipulation module creates a

conversion chain comprising of a factor.

61.   The network of claim 60, wherein said manipulation module applies said

factor to said one of said planning data based on a first unit of measure to produce a

10   planning data based on a second unit of measure.

62.   The network of claim 54, wherein said manipulation module allocates

aggregate edits for a first hierarchical item belonging to a first tier to at least two

second hierarchical items belonging to lower tiers then said first tier in said hierarchy.

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63.   The network of claim 54, further comprising a security module that assigns a

role to a user, wherein said role is associated with a filter.

64.   The network of claim 63, wherein said security module further selects one of

20   said planning data by filtering said planning data using said filter.

65.   The network of claim 64, wherein said security module filters said planning

data by querying for one of said planning data having attributes as defined by said

filter.

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66.   The network of claim 54, further comprising a calendar module that creates a customized calendar based on said user's time period preferences.

5   67.   The network of claim 66, wherein said manipulating module organizes and increments said planning data according to said customized calendar.

68.   The network of claim 54, further comprising a freeze profile module that creates a freeze profile, wherein said freeze profile is defined by a freeze period.

10   69.   The network of claim 68, wherein said freeze profile module assigns said freeze profile to one of said planning data preventing said planning data from being edited during said freeze period.

15   70.   A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform the steps of sharing and manipulating supply chain planning data, the steps comprising:

        storing said planning data;

        assigning attributes to said planning data;

20   creating a hierarchy by ranking and placing one of said attributes into a hierarchical order; and

        manipulating said supply chain planning data by aggregating said planning data in accordance with said hierarchy to produce aggregated planning data.

71.   The program storage device of claim 70, wherein said step of assigning attributes is performed by assigning a location attribute, a product attribute and a user defined attribute to each of said planning data.

5   72.   The program storage device of claim 70, wherein said step of manipulating said planning data comprises the step of converting one of said planning data based on a first unit of measure to a planning data based on a second unit of measure.

73.   The program storage device of claim 72, wherein said planing data is based on

10   a first unit of measure, and said step of converting one of said planning data further comprises the steps of creating a conversion chain comprising a factor and applying said factor to said one of said planning data based on a first unit of measure to a planning data based on a second unit of measure.

15   74.   The program storage device of claim 70, wherein the step of manipulating said planning data comprises the step of allocating aggregate edits for a first hierarchical item belonging to a first tier to at least two second hierarchical items belonging to tiers lower than said first tier in said hierarchy.

20   75.   The program storage device of 70, wherein said program further comprises the steps of assigning a role associated with a filter to a user and selecting one of said planning data by filtering said planning data using said filter.

76. The program storage device of claim 75, wherein said step for filtering said planning data using said filter is by querying for one of said planning data having attributes defined by said filter.

5   77. The program storage device of claim 70, wherein said program further comprises the step of creating a customized calendar based on said user's time period preferences.

78. The program storage device of claim 77, wherein said step of manipulating

10   said planning data further comprises the step of organizing and incrementing said planning data according to said customized calendar.

79. The program storage device of claim 70, wherein said program further comprises the step of creating a freeze profile, said freeze profile is defined by a

15   freeze period.

80. The program storage device of claim 79, wherein said program further comprises the step of assigning said freeze profile to one of said planning data preventing said planning data from being edited during said freeze period.